Remarks/Arguments

The Final Office Action mailed May 31, 2005 has been received and carefully considered. Claims 1-6, 8-16, and 18-21 are pending and are rejected.

35 U.S.C. 103 (a) - Claims 1-5, 8-11, 12-15, and 18-21

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-11, 12-15, and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over US 2005/0028207 A1 ("Finseth") in view of US2004/0168186 A1 ("Rector"), applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over these two references because there is no motivation to combine the two references in the manner suggested in the Office Action and the combination will not arrive at the claimed invention, as discussed below.

The present invention as recited in amended independent Claim 1 is:

> A method for rapidly advancing an electronic program guide, comprising the steps of:
>
> producing a signal suitable for display on a display device a time line having notches representing discrete predefined time slots thereon delineating times and days in the future from a current day and time to which a marker can be moved;
>
> moving the marker using navigation buttons of a remote control device to a notch delineating a desired day and time in the future, thereby causing to be displayed in a time window displayed on the display device a time period displaying indicia for programs to be broadcast during the time period on said desired day and time. (Emphasis added)

By contrast, Finseth in FIG. 4 discloses that the electronic program guide (EPG) provides day indicators 104 for indicating the day for which program information is presently being displayed, a jump button 100 for allowing users to skip to program information for a different day than that presently displayed, and a time button 102 for allowing users to skip to program information for a different time than that presently displayed. See paragraph 0068. Thus, Finseth has already disclosed a method allowing a user to advance to a desired day and time in the future in two steps. First, the user can press the jump button 100 to select a day. In doing so, the one of the day indicators 104 corresponding to the selected day is highlighted. Then, the

user can press the time button 102 to select a different time. Since Finseth has already provide the capability of selecting a future day and time, there is no need to incorporate the feature of using scroll buttons 80 and 82 and the positioning button 84 shown in FIG. 3 of Rector for selecting the various time slots in a grid. As such, there is no motivation for a skilled artisan to combine the two teachings.

Furthermore, for the sake of argument, even if the two references are combined as suggested in the Office Action, the combination still does not arrive at claim 1. This is because two different buttons are required for selecting a day and a time slot in Finseth. Replacing the time button 102 in Finseth with the time positioning buttons 84 in Rector would produce two time lines: one for day and the other for time, each having its own marker. As such, the combination still does not arrive at the feature of a time line having notches representing discrete predefined time slots thereon delineating times and days in the future from a current day and time to which a marker can be moved, as recited in claim 1.

Since the combination would include two different timelines with different markers, the combination also cannot implement the step of moving a marker to a notch delineating a desired day and time in the future thereby causing to be displayed in a time window displayed on the display device a time period displaying indicia for programs to be broadcast during the time period on the desired day and time, as recited in claim 1.

Lastly, there is no motivation to combine the two time lines for the following reasons. Assuming a half hour interval for the program guide, there will be a total of 48 time slots in a day. In a week, there will be a total of 7X48 (336) time slots. Thus, the combination would produce 336 positioning buttons, which would be difficult if not impossible to fit in a screen.

In light of the fact that there is no motivation to combine the two references in the manner suggested in the Office Action, and the combination would not arrive at claim 1, applicant submits that claim 1, and dependent claims 2-6, are patentable over the two references.

Independent claims 8, 12, and 18 recite similar features recited in claim 1. As such, applicant submits that claims 8, 13 and 18, and respective

dependent claims 9-11, 13-16, and 19-21, are patentable over the two references for similar reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

35 U.S.C. 103 (a) - Claims 6 and 16

Responsive to the rejection of claims 6 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Finseth in view of Rector and US6,664,984B2 ("Schlarb"), applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over these three references for their respective dependence from claims 1 and 12 because Schlarb fails to cure the defect of Finseth and Rector as applied to claims 1 and 12.

Schlarb describes a method and system for identification of pay-per-view programming which displays a time line, which can be scrolled through several days or weeks of program information. This feature is similar to the function of selecting a day using the jump button 100 in Finseth. As such, claims 1 and 12 are patentable for similar reasons discussed above with respect to the combination of Finseth and Rector.

Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to [Mail Stop AF], Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

8-31-05
Date

Karen Schwarch